

REMARKS

Summary of Amendments

1. Claims 1 through 16 were originally presented in this application. Claims 17 through 20 were added by an amendment dated November 1, 2004; claims 3 and 7 were canceled in an amendment dated March 30, 2005; claims 1, 9, 11, and 15 were canceled in an amendment accompanying a first request for continued examination, dated December 5, 2005; claims 21-23 were added in an amendment dated June 23, 2006; claim 24 was added and claims 18, 21, and 22 canceled in an amendment accompanying a second request for continued examination, dated December 7, 2006; and claims 2, 17, 21, 22 and 24 were canceled in an amendment dated May 22, 2007.

By the present amendment, claims 6, 10 and 14 have been canceled, but no claims have been added or amended.

Claims 4, 5, 8, 12, 13, 16, 19 and 20 thus remain pending.

Election/Restriction

2. In the Office action of February 22, 2007, claims 17 and 24 were withdrawn by the Examiner as being directed to a non-elected invention. As noted above, Applicant canceled claims 17 and 24 in the May 22, 2007 amendment, but Applicant expressly reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of said canceled claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

3. In sections 2 and 3 of the August 9, 2007 Office action, claims 6, 10 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for indefiniteness. By the present amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 6, 10 and 14.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

4. Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Hitachi Tool* (Japanese Unexamined Pat. App. Pub. Nos. H07-188901 or, it is believed, 2000-308905), or *Toshiba Tungalloy* (Japanese Unexamined Pat. App. Pub. No. 2001-234328). Applicant respectfully traverses and has appealed from this rejection.

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5. Claims 5, 8, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Kullander et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,543,210) or *Cutler* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,952,102). Applicant respectfully traverses and has appealed from this rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

6. Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hitachi Tool* or *Toshiba Tungalloy* in view of *Oskarsson* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,228,139). Applicant respectfully traverses and has appealed from this rejection.
7. Claims 13 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kullander et al.* or *Cutler* in view of *Oskarsson*. Applicant respectfully traverses and has appealed from this rejection.

Appeal

8. The brief on Applicants' appeal—following Applicant's Notice of Appeal filed November 9, 2007, and to which the present amendment is concomitantly submitted—appeals from the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections of claims 4, 5, 8, 19 and 20, as enumerated above in sections 4 and 5 of this paper, and from the § 103(a) rejections of claims 12, 13 and 16, as enumerated in sections 6 and 7.

Applicant believes that this application is in condition for allowance, and on appeal requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

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/James Judge/

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